DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

SECRET/NODIS

March 31, 1970
Rec'd in S/S 4/2/70

TO : U - The Under Secretary

THROUGH: J - Ambassador Johnson
S/S

FROM : EA - Marshall Green

SUBJECT: Reduction of U.S. Presence on Taiwan --
ACTION MEMORANDUM

Discussion:

As our meetings with the Chinese proceed toward a higher level meeting in Peking, we are coming closer to the point of needing more precise information on which we could base decisions to reduce the American military presence on Taiwan. Such a study will require participation by the Defense Department and other agencies and may best be carried out in the context of other pending NSC studies regarding the U.S. military presence in the Western Pacific.

I believe that we should encourage the NSC to move as rapidly as possible in asking for this assessment, and I am attaching an Eliot-Kissinger memorandum designed to get the study started. The NSC staff, which is already laying the groundwork for levying the requirement on the various agencies, has suggested that we send such a memorandum to Mr. Kissinger.

Recommendation:

That you approve sending the attached memorandum.

Clearances: EA/ACA - Mr. Kreisberg
EA/ROC - Mr. Shoesmith
PM - Mr. Spiers
S/PC-Mr. Cargo

Approve _____

Disapprove _____

Attachment:

Eliot-Kissinger Memorandum.

EA/ACA:HETThayer: 3/31/70 x-20708
PHKreisberg:ced

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

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SECRET/[redacted]

April 3, 1970

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U
J
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PM
EA
S/S
S/PC-Pickering

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HENRY A. KISSINGER
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Reduction of U.S. Presence on Taiwan

You will recall that we told the Chinese in Warsaw on February 20 that it is our "intention to reduce those military facilities which we now have on Taiwan as tensions in the area diminish." In our game plan ("U.S. Strategy in Current Sino-U.S. Talks") submitted as an enclosure to the Secretary's memorandum to the President of February 7, we noted that we may need to consider the question of reducing our military presence on Taiwan in the context of our desire for Peking's commitment not to use force against the island.

As we may now be moving along to a higher-level meeting with the Chinese in Peking, we believe that we have a relatively urgent need for a clear assessment of the current and future importance of U.S. facilities on Taiwan, including the USAF (CCK Air Base) and NSA installations, for the purpose of meeting our obligations regarding defense of the Taiwan treaty area and fulfilling our over-all military requirements in the Western Pacific. This assessment would include (a) an estimate of the timing of a reduction of U.S. military facilities on Taiwan to pre-Viet-Nam levels, (b) consideration of reductions below this level, and (c) analysis of alternate facilities and methods of meeting U.S. requirements at the reduced levels, as well as at a zero level.

Such a study necessarily concerns the Defense Department, CIA and NSA, as well as this Department. However, the sensitivity of the issue would require

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that the study be conducted by as limited a group as possible.

You will recall that in his memorandum of February 16 Under Secretary Richardson suggested that the DPRC Working Group draw up a five-year program plan for our East Asian base structure. This study should, of course, provide the assessments referred to in (c) above, and could, as well, include an analysis of alternative facilities and methods of meeting U.S. requirements at the reduced and zero levels. While we had hoped this study could be completed by May 15, this does not now appear possible. Accordingly, we suggest a small group, within the National Security Council framework, set to work immediately on the questions relating to reductions (points (a) and (b), above), while the wider questions are considered as part of the over-all WESTPAC study. We are prepared to nominate appropriate participants.

Theodore L. Eliot, Jr.
Executive Secretary

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Clearances:
EA/ACA - Mr. Kreisberg
EA/ROC - Mr. Shoesmith